

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action mailed January 14, 2002, Applicant amends his application and requests reconsideration. In the Amendment, claims 24 and 25 have been amended to correct informalities, claims 26-53 have been cancelled, and claims 54-81 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 24, 25 and 54-81 are now pending and under examination.

The subject matter of the new claims is similar to that of the cancelled claims and therefore is supported by the application as originally filed.

Claims 24-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, claim 24 and a number of dependent claims were rejected as containing alternative recitation "recesses or holes." Applicant has replaced the alternative recitation with "at least one of a recess and a hole." Therefore, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 28 was rejected as confusing the control device with the element. This rejection is now moot due to the cancellation of claim 28. The new claims do not contain this informality.

Claims 26-53 were objected to for being out of order dependent claims. Applicant has replaced claims 26-53 with new claims 54-81, which are in the proper order.

Claims 24-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over, EPO 0 580 382. The rejection of claims 26-53 is now moot due to the cancellation of claims 26-53. For the reasons set forth hereinafter, it is respectfully submitted that claims 24-25 are not anticipated by, and are patentable over, EPO 0 580 382.

Claim 24 discloses a number of patentable features that are not disclosed or suggested by EPO 0 580 382. For example, claim 24 recites a pressure control device, in which a sensor is accommodated at least partially in one of a recess and a hole that is provided in one of a control device and an element. In EPO 0 580 382,

on the other hand, the sensor (138) is rigidly attached to the circuit board (165). Therefore, this feature of claim 24 is not disclosed or suggested by EPO 0 580 382.

For another example, claim 24 also recites a bending resistant element operatively coupled to the sensor to absorb pressure forces acting on the sensor. In EPO 0 580 382, on the other hand, the pressure forces acting on the sensor (138) are absorbed by the circuit board (165). Therefore, this feature of claim 24 is also not disclosed or suggested by EPO 0 580 382.

These two features, among others, provide a number of advantages to the pressure control device of claim 24. For example, when the sensor is sensing fluid pressure, the pressure forces acting on the sensor are absorbed by the bending resistant element. In addition, the sensor does not have to be attached to the control device (not by a circuit board) and can move in a recess or hole of the control device. Therefore, the movement of the sensor under pressure does not put stress on the control device, preventing damage to the control device.

In addition, because the sensor does not have to be attached to the control device, it can be more easily replaced.

In EPO 0 580 382, on the other hand, the sensor (138) is rigidly attached to the circuit board (165), and the pressure forces acting on the sensor (138) are absorbed by the circuit board (165) (see Figure 3). Therefore, when the sensor is sensing fluid pressure, the pressure forces may damage the circuit board and/or the sensor. Even if only the sensor is damaged, replacement of the sensor requires that the entire circuit board be replaced, since the sensor is rigidly attached to the circuit board. Replacement of the circuit board is time-consuming and costly.

In view of the above discussion, claim 24, and claim 25 which depends from claim 24, are not anticipated by, and are patentable over, EPO 0 580 382.

Since the new claims depend from claim 24, they are also not anticipated by, and are patentable over, EPO 0 580 382.

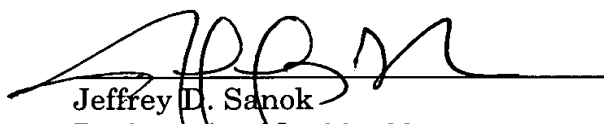
In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully

requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #1662/49745).

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

Claims 26-53 have been cancelled.

Claims 24 and 25 as have been amended as follows:

24. (Amended) A pressure control device for a vehicle, comprising:

a control device;

at least one of a mechanical, pneumatic and hydraulic element coupled with the control device, wherein at least one of a recess and a hole is [recesses or holes are] provided in at least one of the control device and the element;

at least one sensor which is accommodatable at least partially in the at least one of the recess and the hole [one of said recesses or holes]; and

a bending resistant element operatively coupled to the at least one sensor to absorb pressure forces acting on the at least one sensor.

25. (Amended) The pressure control device according to claim 24, wherein the control device comprises a printed circuit board provided with the at least one of the recess and the hole [said recesses or holes] for the at least one sensor.